

Sustainable Sharon Coalition Annual Meeting Minutes

July 1, 2020, 7:00 PM

Zoom Remote Meeting, <https://zoom.us/j/3524688267>

In attendance: Asma Abdullah, Aneeza Ahmad, Peg Arguimbau, Marlene Arnold, Ellen Bordman, Stuart Brown, Nivedi Das, Artie Crocker, Molli Denrich, Silas Fyler, Ruby Gu, Tim Humphreys, Paul Lauenstein, Bri McAlevey, Kathi Mirza, Jasper Olson, Linda Orel (and her parents), Charlotte Pototsky, Helen Poynton, Cheryl Schnitzer, David Slater, Debbie Tatro, Liz Thomson, Melissa Tian, Sandra Widland

1. Welcome: Recited Vision statement together.

2. New 2020-21 SSC Board

- Cheryl presented the slate of new officers, board members and committee chairs (see Agenda for list). Voted to approve. Vote passed (15 raised hands).
- Sandra Wildland reminded outgoing board members and committee chairs to update strategic plan with past year's outcomes (due July 15th). Sandra will send out link this week to new committee chairs to begin planning for this year.

3. SSC Awards: Cheryl presented Certificates of Appreciation to Peg Arguimbau, Greg Meister, Ruby Gu, Linda Orel and Debbie Tatro for their work promoting conservation and sustainability throughout the year.

4. Racism and environmental justice (Sandra Widland and Asma Abdullah):

- Sandra explained just as the larger 21-day Racial Equity Challenge is looking at racism through different systems, we will be examining it through the environment. Several links were sent to review and start discussions.
- Asma commented how shocked she was to find signs of racism still going on here today, and encouraged everyone to view the SHS video link which gives accounts of what Sharon students of color encounter.
- Sandra mentioned we will be connecting with Natasha Neese of Racial Equity Alliance, who unfortunately couldn't be on the Zoom call this evening. It's a good time to become more connected with the Alliance, and is also glad that Asma is revitalizing the SSC Community-Interfaith-Multicultural committee.
- Sandra will send new email with all the links. Please look at them if you haven't had the chance already. Cheryl suggested putting the links on the website as well.

5. SSC Communities, Interfaith and Multicultural Committee (Asma Abdullah): Committee was started a couple of years ago. One of the goals is to work with faith communities to make them more cognizant of the resources they are using. Just getting started and hope to have good things to report soon.

6. SSC Food Committee (Bri McAlevey): Covid has brought to light what the taste for animal flesh can lead to. We will be planning taste tests and other events. If you are interested in food, diet, planet, land management, please join the committee.

7. SSC Communications Committee (Ellen Bordman):

- Special thanks to Dave Slater for his past contributions as Webmaster. Dave will be taking over as Treasurer.
- Jess Weiss is our new Webmaster. (Jess unfortunately couldn't attend Zoom call this evening.) Jess has already started making updates to the website including a new web content submission form. Ellen demoed the new password-protected page. It is currently hidden, but Jess plans to add a link shortly for easier access. Send any feedback to Ellen.
- Facebook Group SSC Super Challenge: Cheryl reported that the drawing for the two Black Earth Compost starter kits will take place on July 7th. We also reached our 300 household goal! So, the cost for curbside pickup will be going down by 40% for everyone.
- SSC e-newsletter—please continue to look out for Molli's emails and provide content.
- SSC Roving Reporter (Charlotte Pototsky) – Working on article that asks: Is there a connection between racism and sustainability? First report was about Paul, and will be posted soon.

8. SSC Zero Waste Committee (Debbie Tatro/Helen Poynton)

- Status of artificial turf in Sharon: Debbie reported they are waiting to see if vote will be appealed – whether plan will be withdrawn or whether they will submit revised plan for natural grass. In addition, there will be a vote at Town Meeting on whether to have a 3-year moratorium that would prevent artificial turf from being installed anywhere in Sharon for 3 years while more research can be done.
- Paul is looking into getting fields in town professionally maintained with natural methods. Could mean an upgrade to usability and durability of current grass fields. Maintenance would (and should) be customized for each field. Cost would be around \$50,000/year. Paul is working with different sports groups to compose a letter to the Select Board.
 - Paul needs SSC Board members to read the letter and vote to authorize him to sign it on behalf of SSC. Vote for authorization can be done via email.

- Litter cleanup with NepRWA will be July 18th. Working on side of the train station and looking for 20 people to participate. Email Cheryl if you can assist.
- Reusable bags have arrived. Kathi reported from Ricki (who couldn't attend meeting) that we need a plan to sell the bags. Bags will be sent to each of the student artists.

9. SSC Energy and Climate Change Committee: (Artie Crocker) Wanted a way to engage High School and College students on energy alternatives to reduce fossil fuels. reating solar internship program to help educate and inspire High School/College Student Summer Intern(s) while learning how to identify solar opportunities.(Simone Tamkin/Liz Thomson)

10. Post-carding with Reclaim Our Vote: (Cheryl Schnitzer) Effort underway to get out the vote to battleground states. If you can help mail postcards, email Cheryl.

11. Update SSC Bylaws: (Cheryl Schnitzer) Vote held on the following change:

- Currently, under Article 4 Officers and Board of Directors, Section 4.1 Number says:

“The officers of the corporation shall be a President, Vice President, Treasurer and Clerk and other such officers, if any, as the directors deem necessary. The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers and up to **ten** additional persons.”
- Motion to change “ten” to “twelve”. Motion passed. (11 hands raised)
- Due to lack of time, other changes to the Bylaws will be discussed and voted on next meeting.

12. SSC “Word of the Year”: (Cheryl Schnitzer) Last year’s word was “Reduce”. Submit ideas for what this year’s word should be. Will vote on submissions next meeting.

13. New business: Paul mentioned that the Food and Water Watch is circulating a petition to oppose the effort to privatize public water. Paul would like SSC to sign onto the letter. Motion moved and passed.

14. Next meetings:

- SSC Board meeting, Wed., July 29th, at 7:00 PM
- SSC monthly meeting, Wed. August 5th, 7:00 PM: Invited guest: David Rugeiro, the new Energy Administrator in town

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM

Minutes submitted by Marlene Arnold